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THE TAFT LECTURES. — It was the privilege of the Law School, during the past month, to have as its distinguished guest former President William Howard Taft, now Professor of Law in the Yale Law School, who delivered a series of three lectures on "The Presidency: Its Powers, Duties, Responsibilities, and Limitations." Mr. Taft discussed the functions of our chief executive as viewed by one who has actually served in that capacity for four years, and not as one who theorizes at a distance. As the subject, from its nature, is one not covered by the authorities, the lectures were particularly valuable, not only as an adjunct to the course on Constitutional Law, but also to the student of general law and politics.

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THE HARVARD LEGAL AID BUREAU. — The Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, incorporated last May for the purpose of rendering legal assistance gratuitously to persons unable to employ counsel, opened its office in Central Square, Cambridge, for its third year, on Wednesday, October 7. The membership for the coming year is made up as follows: A. C. Tener, President; C. B. Randall, Secretary; R. G. Bosworth, E. G. Fifield, E. W. Freeman, James Garfield, T. J. Hargrave, E. C. Kanzler, F. A. Nagel, T. H. Remington, Blair Reiley, H. Siefke, Jr., C. M. Storey, H. K. Urion, S. H. Wellman, R. W. Williams, from the Third Year Class; and F. G. Blair, R. W. Baker, F. L. Daily, T. W. Doan, W. W. Hodson, A. Jaretski, Jr., P. V. McNutt, J. H. Philbin, W. F. Rogers, E. D. Smith, R. B. Wigglesworth, from the Second Year Class. These men are elected for the legal ability shown in their daily classroom work.

In the course of last year some two hundred and three cases were brought to the Bureau. Of these, fifteen went to trial. Fourteen were won and one was settled to avoid defeat. There is reason to believe that the usefulness of this organization will increase during the coming year.

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THE STOPPING OF AMERICAN OIL SHIPS BY ENGLISH CRUISERS. — Fresh problems of international law arise almost daily as the European war progresses, — some of them of the utmost importance to the United States in the preservation of her neutrality. Recently three American vessels carrying oil to neutral ports were stopped by British cruisers.<sup>1</sup> Two of them had changed from German to American registry after the outbreak of hostilities. The exact facts in each incident have not at this writing been made public by our Department of State, but it is clear that whatever justification exists must have its basis in the nature of the cargo, the destination of the vessel, its registry, or its ownership. The matter is complicated by the imperfect success of the Declaration of London which codified the rules of international prize law, but which was never ratified by all the nations.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The boats referred to are the "Platuria," the "Brindilla," and the "John D. Rockefeller," operated by a German corporation in which the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey has the controlling interest. All were finally released.

<sup>2</sup> The Naval Conference of London met in 1908-09 to draft the rules of law which